

REMARKS

Claims 1-2 and 4-8 have been examined. Claims 1-2, 4 and 6-8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b). Also, the Examiner has indicated that claim 5 is allowed.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-4 and 6-8 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by JP 11109436 A to Goto ("Goto"). Please note, since claim 3 was previously canceled, Applicant assumes the Examiner did not intend to include claim 3 in the present rejection.

A. Claim 1

Applicant submits that claim 1 is patentable over the cited reference. For example, claim 1 recites an aperture at a predetermined zooming step that is between a telephoto end and a wide-angle end. The predetermined zooming step is used only when a macro shooting mode for obtaining a close-up of a subject is chosen by activating a macro shooting button. In other words, in the macro shooting mode, the predetermined zooming step is between a telephoto end and a wide-angle end.

The Examiner maintains that the Abstract and Figures of Goto clearly anticipate the above features. However, Applicant submits that the Examiner misinterprets and/or misapplies the cited reference. For example, as stated in the Abstract, the lens group 1, 2, and aperture 3, are fixed on the wide end when the macrophotographing mode is selected. Therefore, Goto fails to teach a predetermined zooming step that is between a telephoto end and a wide-angle end,

when a macro shooting mode is chosen. Accordingly, since Goto fails to teach or disclose the claimed predetermined zooming step, Applicant submits that claim 1 is patentable over the cited reference.

B. Claim 2

Since claim 2 is dependent upon claim 1, Applicant submits that such claim is patentable at least by virtue of its dependency.

C. Claim 4

Since claim 4 is dependent upon claim 1, Applicant submits that such claim is patentable at least by virtue of its dependency.

In addition, claim 4 recites that the predetermined zooming step is closer to the telephoto end than the wide-angle end. Applicant submits that Goto fails to teach or disclose such a feature. For example, as stated above, Goto discloses that the lens group 1,2 is fixed to the wide end in a macrophotography mode. Since lens group 1,2 is fixed to the wide end, lens group 1,2 cannot also be “closer to” a telephoto end, as required by claim 4. Therefore, Applicant submits that claim 4 is patentable over the cited reference.

D. Claims 6 and 7

Since claim 6 contains features which are analogous to the features recited in claim 1, Applicant submits that claim 6 is patentable over the cited reference for at least analogous reasons as presented above.

Since claim 7 has been cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer, Applicant submits that the rejection of such claim is now moot.

E. Claim 8

Since claim 8 contains features which are analogous to the features recited in claim 1, Applicant submits that claim 8 is patentable for at least analogous reasons as presented above.

Allowable Subject Matter

As stated above, the Examiner has indicated that claim 5 is allowed for the reasons set forth in the Office Action.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
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The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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